



# Department of Justice

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## **TWO FORMER ZANESVILLE AREA POLICE OFFICERS RECEIVE 80 MONTH SENTENCES FOR ROLE IN DRUG, GUN CONSPIRACY**

COLUMBUS – Former Zanesville Police Officer Trevor Fusner, age 32, and former Genesis Health Care System Police Officer Chad Mills, age 30, were each sentenced in United States District Court here today to 80 months imprisonment for their roles in a conspiracy to steal cocaine from a local drug dealer in a staged police drug bust.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; Keith L. Bennett, Special Agent in Charge (SAC) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Cincinnati Division; Robert J. Stephenson, Sheriff, Muskingum County, Ohio; and Eric Lambes, Chief of Police, Zanesville, Ohio Police Department; announced the sentences which were handed down today by United States District Judge Edmund A. Sargus, Jr.

In December, 2007 each man pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine and one count of possession of a firearm in a drug crime.

Judge Sargus sentenced each man to 20 months imprisonment for the conspiracy count and 60 months to be served consecutively for the firearm count. Each man will receive credit for the days they spent in custody after their arrest in October 2007 by FBI agents, and for the time they've spent on electronic monitoring since a bond hearing in October 2007.

According to a statement of facts filed with the guilty pleas, Mills and Fusner participated in a plot in September, 2007 to steal a kilogram of cocaine from a drug dealer in a staged police drug bust in anticipation of receiving a portion of the proceeds from the subsequent sale of the cocaine.

Mills and Fusner were indicted along with Zanesville Police Officer Sean Beck in November, 2007. Beck pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine and one count of possession of a firearm during a drug crime. He is awaiting sentencing.

“We asked that Fusner and Mills receive sentences below the mandatory minimum sentences under law because they pleaded guilty shortly after they were charged and assisted in the investigation of Beck,” Lockhart said. Each crime carried a mandatory minimum five year sentence.

At the sentencing hearing, Judge Sargus noted that the crimes involved police officers in uniform conspiring to bring illegal drugs into their community, not to keep drugs out, as law enforcement officers are sworn to do.

The U.S. Bureau of Prisons will set a time for each man to surrender and begin serving their sentences. After their prison time, each man will serve four years of supervised release.

Lockhart commended the cooperative investigation by FBI agents and sheriff’s deputies, and Assistant U.S. Attorneys Dave Devillers and Michael Marous, who prosecuted the case.

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